

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Amended) A method for automatically generating an interface software program for entering a plurality of commands for operating a complex system by a user, wherein the complex system is equipment for a telecommunication network, the complex system featuring a plurality of components each supporting a sub-plurality of the commands, the steps of the method comprising:

(a) providing a component interface for each of the plurality of components, said component interface including a command description of each of the corresponding sub-plurality of commands, including a description of each parameter for each command;

(b) parsing said command description from said component interface to form a description of a command interface for each command for display to the user;

(c) building said command interface for each command; and

(d) creating the interface software program for displaying said command interface for each command to the user.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein for at least a sub-plurality of the components, step (a) comprises the steps of:

(i) providing a command description of each command supported by any of said sub-plurality of the components;

(ii) providing a relationship between each said command and each of said sub-plurality of the components.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the interface software program is generated for a complex system for interacting with a plurality of network elements, each network element corresponding to a component of the complex system.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the complex system is a ~~T-1-DAX~~<sup>®</sup> digital cross connect.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~claim any one of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein step (a) further includes the steps of:

(iii) providing a default value for each parameter;  
and

(iv) providing a plurality of permissible values for each parameter.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said plurality of permissible values includes a minimum value and a maximum value for numeric parameters, and a list of names for character string parameters.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein sub-steps (iii) and (iv) of step (a) further comprise the steps of determining said default value and said plurality of permissible values for each parameter for each of the plurality of components.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein sub-step (iv) of step (a) further comprises the step of providing a list of excluded values for each parameter of each command.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the interface software program is generated for a complex system for interacting with a plurality of network elements, each network element corresponding to a component of the complex system and wherein step (a) further comprises the step of providing a list of at least one parameter corresponding to a network element.

10. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein sub-step (ii) of step (a) further comprises the steps of:

(A) determining at least one operation for performing with each of the plurality of components; and

(B) determining a relationship between said at least one operation and each of the plurality of commands.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein step (a) further comprises the step of:

(C) determining a security clearance of the user required before a command is accessed by the user.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein step (a) further comprises the step of determining a help file for each of the plurality of commands, said help file including information for assisting the user for each command.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the interface software program is generated for a complex system for interacting with a plurality of network elements, each network element corresponding to a component of the complex system and wherein said help file is provided for each combination of a network element and a command for operation with said network element.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein step (b) further comprises the step of determining a template for said interface.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said interface is a GUI (graphical user interface) and said template features a plurality of GUI elements.

16. (Currently Amended ) The method of claim 15, wherein said template comprises a number of fields and features a name for each field corresponding to each parameter.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein said template features a name for each command, said name being altered according to a selection by the user.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein step (c) is performed by a GUI builder software program.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein step (d) further comprises the steps of:

(i) providing a generic interface operation software program;

(ii) generating a header file for each command; and

(iii) constructing the interface software program from said header file and said generic interface operation software program.

20. (New) The method according to Claim 1, being performed with respect to a number of components of said plurality of components, having component interfaces readily available and suitable to one another;

for a remaining sub-plurality of components differing from said number of components from the point of interfaces, the method further comprises

completing said interface software program to serve said remaining sub-plurality of components by determining the command description for each command supported by any of said remaining sub-plurality of components, and by determining the relationship between each of said commands and each of said remaining sub-plurality of components.